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PRESS ALARMED BY BACKWARD TREND
IN MEDICAL NET REBUILDING PROGRAM

- A recent editorial in Sotsialisticheskiy Donbass commented on the achievements of the medical service in rebuilding its facilities after their destruction in World War II. In Stalino Oblast, for example, 271 hospitals and 712 dispensaries for ambulatory patients have been rebuilt and are operational. This number exceeds prewar facilities by about 2.5 times. There are in addition 155¹ X-ray stations (55 more than before the war), large number of new medical personnel, and an all-time high in appropriations of 500 million rubles.

The editorial stated that everything would be very satisfactory were it not for a few shortsighted individuals who are unable to put into operation any long-range programs. For example, many of the hospitals in Yennakiyev Rayon need repairs and rebuilding. The state has appropriated more than 1,200,000 rubles to carry out this program. However, selfish and, unfortunately, powerful individuals have spent only 170,000 rubles. It shocks one's conscience even more to be told that this sum of 170,000 rubles was not spent in making repairs.

The situation is no better at Snezhnyi. In fact, there has been no repair work done in this region. The health station, located at mine shaft No 21, is roofless, and unless something constructive is done in the very near future the walls will cave in. Health stations at mine shafts No 32 and 33 are in a similarly dilapidated condition. The responsibility for such inefficiency lies squarely on the shoulders of Beskhebnyy, director of "Snezhnyanantsratst," members of the Snezhnyi Rayon Soviet and the Snezhnyi Rayon Committee of the KP (b).

The editorial brings up a very pertinent point when it asks, "Does it not show lack of administrative ability in rayon and municipal Party committees and soviets if there is such poor progress in the hospital and dispensary rebuilding programs?"

Stavropol'skaya Pravda also showed concern over the lack of enthusiasm in the rebuilding programs. This paper noted that in Nevinnomyss, Stavropol, Kislovodsk, Novoselits, Kurak, Turkmen and other rayons construction of new hospitals was falling far behind schedule. No attempt has been made to unite the therapeutic

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and prophylactic institutions in Dmitriyev, Goryachev, Cherkess and Khabez rayons. The Kray Public Health Department is little concerned about improving the quality of medical personnel. The article points out that the regional councils in Aleksandriysk, Obilenskiy, Yegorlykakiy, Mineralovodsk and Izobil'nenskiy rayons are appropriating funds earmarked for medical construction for entirely separate projects.

Omskaya Pravda is quite concerned about the lack of political and ideological training of medical personnel in various regions around Omsk. Lack of this training is leading to serious consequences. For example, because the proper spirit is lacking, doctors in Vasissk Rayon have to accommodate patients in their own residences rather than in hospitals. Poor political and ideological training is also responsible for the low standard of sanitation work being carried out at hospitals in Pavlograd, Kolosovskiy, Brobyashev and Russko-Polyansk rayons. At present the morale and discipline of medical personnel is poor. The editorial warns that unless remedial steps are taken immediately the situation will become much aggravated with serious consequences to the health of people living in the rayons mentioned.

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